

CHICAGO & NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY CO.

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT.

CHICAGO, Jan'y 17<sup>th</sup> 1886

Friend West:-

I duly received your letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> and have also read your letter to Mr. Wheeler. - I do not know what is to be the programme with regard to the Superintendency of the Peninsula Div., but I sincerely hope that just for once the management of this Company will recognize faithful and efficient service for a long period and give you the appointment. I do not know exactly how you feel, but from your letter to Mr. Wheeler, which expresses exactly my condition, (although <sup>in my case</sup> the term of service is not so long) I think I can form a pretty good idea. The title I have is nothing - in fact, it is worse than nothing, because, if I should leave the Company's service, which I have no doubt I will have to, whenever Mr. Wheeler does, it will be next to impossible to get a similar position or in fact a clerkship.

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which I could easily have got before. Unless the fates are with you, nothing will help you along in this Company's service but what our worthy (?) Congressman - Alderman Frank Lawler terms "influence"; and I am afraid that neither you nor I possess much of that. However, repining does no good - let us hope for the best. It is a long road that has no turn, and we may yet come out all right - Of course, all this is in confidence.

Yours truly  
J. Wallace Jr.